

## **REMARKS**

Careful consideration has been given by the applicants to the Examiner's comments and rejection of the claims, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action, and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, as amended, is earnestly solicited.

Applicants note the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1-5 and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Fleischmann, U.S. Patent No. 6,203,180 B1, in view of Bello, Jr., U.S. Patent No. 6,481,877 B1; wherein applicants note that the Fleischmann is applicants' own earlier U.S. patent application, which is commonly assigned to the present assignee.

Hereby, applicants note the extensive grounds of rejection of the claims, as set forth in the Office Action, noting that allegedly the combination of the art renders these claims to be obvious to one skilled in the technology.

Similarly, Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over the art, as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of Kazar, U.S. Patent No. 5,008,595, as also detailed in the Office Action.

However, upon careful consideration of the art, applicants respectfully submit that the claims and invention are directed to features, which are deemed to be patentable, irrespective as to whether the prior art publications are considered singly or in combination.

In particular, applicants note that the Fleischmann publication does not disclose the present invention, the latter of which is directed to a modularly constructed and assembled illuminating system, which incorporates a multi-channel control apparatus 1, having a plurality of outputs and wherein a plurality of lighting units are connected to the various outputs of the control device 1. Each of the lighting units 4-7 are respectively equipped in turn with a plurality

of light emitting diodes (LEDs) 8.1 – 11.5, which units are respectively again connected to a regulating module 12 – 5, in accordance with an associated lighting unit 4 – 7.

The foregoing clearly enables the separate and independent control from a single control unit of the various lighting units, through the respective regulating modules, so as to provide the most diverse types of illumination in an aircraft cabin, wherein the LEDs are mounted either on or in the cabin wall, and in essentially a series connection with regard to each respective lighting unit.

The foregoing configuration and positioning cannot in any manner be ascertained from Fleischmann or any of the other references of record.

In Fleischmann, there is no disclosure of an illuminating system of that type, which includes a plurality of light units of the type described and enclosed therein. From Fleischmann, there can merely be determined a single lighting unit, wherein it is provided with a current supply 14 with a plurality of series connected light emitting diodes 9 and with Zener diodes 15 connected respectively in an anti-parallel relationship thereto, having reference to Figure 3 of Fleischmann. However, those arrangements, as disclosed in Fleischmann, together with further light units, would not be connected to a superordinated control device analogous to that of the present invention.

Even combining Fleischmann with Bello, Jr., would not lead to the invention, whereby in Bello, Jr., there are merely actuatable individually provided light emitting diodes through presently only an associated transistors by means of a control unit. An interconnection of a plurality of light emitting diodes with a regulating module for the formation of a lighting unit of the type as described and claimed herein cannot be ascertained from Bello, Jr.

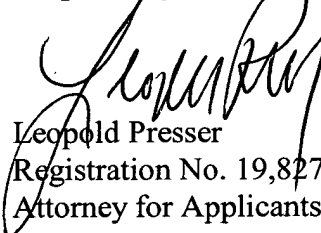
Finally, with regard to the Kazar publication, this merely discloses an ornamental light display apparatus in which a power supply controller is connected to rechargeable battery and distributes energy to a plurality of individual LEDs. There is no disclosure of an illuminating system analogous to that as described and disclosed herein.

Accordingly, in order to emphasize these patentable distinctions, applicants have cancelled Claims 2 and 5 without prejudice, and essentially incorporated the limitations and further specific terminology thereof into Claim 1, which emphasizes the patentable configuration and function of the unique lighting system for aircraft cabins.

With regard to the various dependent claims, these set forth further limitations in connection with the structure, as claimed in amended Claim 1, and none of these features can be ascertained, nor are they suggested from the prior art references.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing comments and amendments, the early and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application by the Examiner is earnestly solicited. However, in the event that the Examiner has any queries concerning the instantly submitted Amendment, applicants' attorney respectfully requests that he be accorded the courtesy of possibly a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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